

38. *MAPANIA KURZII* CLARKE (CYPERACEAE) —  
A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA  
(With a text-figure)

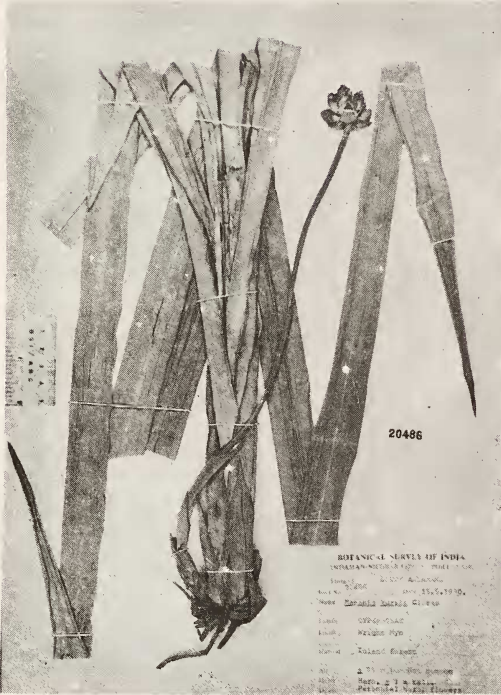


Fig. 1. *Mapania kurzii* Clarke.

The genus *Mapania* Aublet consists of over 45 species (Koyama 1985) distributed mainly in the tropical regions of South America, Africa (excluding Madagascar), Sri Lanka, Assam, Sylhet, Thailand and Indo-China, West Pacific, North Queensland, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and West Java. Kern (1974) in his revision on the Malesian Cyperaceae genera, recognised three different sections under this genus with over 27 species.

This pan-tropic genus is represented in India by four species, viz. *M. cuspidata* (Miq.) Uittien, *M. kurzii* Clarke, *M. palustris* (Hassk. ex Steud.) F. Vill. and *M. zeylanica* (Thw.) Benth. ex Clarke, of which *M. kurzii* is recorded here as an addition to the Indian flora. Thothathri *et al.* (1972) reported the occurrence of *M. cuspidata* var. *angustifolia* (Uittien) in the Nicobar group of islands. Though

Hooker (1894) included *M. kurzii* in his FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, the distribution given by him is only as Malacca and Penang.

While working on the flora of Mount Harriet at the South Andaman islands, one of us located a few populations of this sedge from the inland forests. This being the first record of its occurrence in India, a detailed, illustrated account is provided here to facilitate identification of this extremely rare plant.

*Mapania kurzii* Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 681. 1894; Ridley, Fl. Malay Pen. 5: 172. 1925; Kern, Fl. Malesiana 7 (3): 478. 1974.

Perennial herbs. Stems 40-120 cm high. Leaves linear, narrowed at base, attenuate and triquetrous at apex, aculeate-scabrous at margins, 40-120 x 1-3 cm, coriaceous, median nerve prominent, lateral two nerves indistinct. Sheaths keeled, stramineous with pale brown, scarious margins.

Scapes lateral, trigonous, smooth, 12-50 cm x 1-3 mm, base with lanceolate sheaths. Inflorescence capitate, with 4-8 spikelets. Involucral bracts ovate-lanceolate, 1.5-3 x 1 cm, many-nerved, coriaceous with scarious margins. Spikelets ovoid or ellipsoid, 1.5-3 cm x 8-10 mm. Sterile glumes ovate, obtuse at apex, 1-1.5 cm x 5-8 mm, coriaceous, many-nerved. Fertile glumes ovate, obtuse or rounded at apex, 8-10 x 5-6 mm, coriaceous, 3-7-nerved.

Florets slightly longer than the fertile glumes. Outer two scales boat-shaped, winged and ciliate along the keels, 8-10 x 1-1.5 mm, chartaceous. Inner four scales linear, concave, 2-keeled, 8-10 x 1 mm, delicate, hyaline. Stamens three, linear, 2-3 mm long. Ovary linear, 3-4 mm long; styles 4-6 mm long; stigmas 3, 3-4 mm long. Nuts not seen.

**Flowers and fruits:** May-June.

Very rare, in mixed deciduous forests of Wright Myo area, at an altitude of  $\pm 75$  m, in sandy loam, often associated with *Thottea tomentosa* (Blume) Ding Hou.

The juvenile shoots of this plant, with its peculiar linear, tough, coriaceous leaves with aculeate-scabrous margins show a superficial resemblance to some species of *Pandanus* L. ex St., in the forests.

The leaves have a very distinct median nerve and two in conspicuous lateral nerves, which is contrary to the description given in the protologue and also by Kern (loc. cit.). Similarly, the foliar bracts of the inflorescence also show a quantitative variation. More specimens are needed for further critical study of this rather rare species.

**Specimens examined:** INDIA: South Andaman, Mount Harriet hill ranges, Wright Myo, 15 May 1990, S.P. Mathew 20486 (PBL).

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 THOTHATHRI, K., BANERJEE, S.P. & HAZRA, P.K. (1972): *Mapania cuspidata* (Miq.) Uitt. var. *angustifolia* (Uitt.) Uitt. - An interesting Cyperaceae from Great Nicobar island. *Indian For.* 98: 708.

39. NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF *BRACHIARIA HYBRIDA*  
 BASAPPA & MUNIYAMMA (POACEAE)  
 (With a text-figure)

During the course of studies on the grasses at the Central National Herbarium (CAL), we have noted new distributional areas of the species *Brachiaria hybrida* described by Basappa and Muniyamma in 1983.

*Brachiaria hybrida* Basappa & Muniyamma in Proc. Indian natn. Sci. Acad. B 49 No. 5. pp. 377-389. 1983.

**Type:** Holotype CAL; Isotype MH, BSI, BSJO, MGM.

After checking the herbarium specimens of *Brachiaria milliformis* (Pres) A. Chase and *Panicum distachyum* L. deposited in CAL the following specimens appeared to be *Brachiaria hybrida* due to the unequal leaf bases; panicle with single raceme; pedicel with 1-2 long white hairs (some specimens are with 1-3 long white hairs) and the absence of palea in the lower floret.

**Andaman:** Great Cocos Islands, 1889, D. Prain s.n., Herb. acc. nos. 520317 & 520318; South Andaman, S. Kurz s.n., Herb. acc. no. 520319.

**Assam:** Upper Assam, 1841, J.D. Hooker s.n. Herb. acc. no. 520311; Dibru Valley, 1850, Coll.?,

Herb. acc. no. 520308.

**Bihar:** Mongher, 1894, Mokim 1436.

**Tamil Nadu:** Coll. ? 47.

**West Bengal:** Santiniketan, July 1956, B.K. Das s.n., Herb. acc. no. 520296; Gorumara, 7 January 1956, P.C. Nanda s.n., Herb. acc. no. 520275; Centre of Golapbag, Burdwan, 28 November 1966, D.K. Banerjee 4835; loc?, Coll.?, Herb. acc. no. 520290.

**Flowers and fruits:** April - September

So far, this species was known only from its type locality, Shimoga district of Karnataka (Basappa and Muniyamma 1983). The examination of herbarium sheets as noted from Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Andaman Islands show that *Brachiaria hybrida* occurs in south and east India and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

We are grateful to the Director and Joint Director (CNH), Botanical Survey of India for all facilities for the study.

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